

# **Washington State Patrol**

## **Media Release**

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: October 3, 2006**

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### **Semi Driver Arrested for Assault**

Vancouver – On October 2, 2006, at approximately 2:20 PM, WSP troopers responded to a collision involving a semi truck and car southbound I-5 on the Interstate Bridge.

Trooper David Hodel arrived observing a 1994 Freightliner tractor with trailer and a 2001 Kia Rio blocking the center and right lanes. Trooper Hodel cleared the roadway directing the drivers to the Oregon Public Utilities Commission parking lot at Jantzen Beach.

The investigation revealed the Freightliner driven by Constantin Purice, a 53 year old resident of Portland, Oregon was traveling southbound I-5 in the left lane just north of the Interstate Bridge. Purice attempted to move into the center lane colliding with the Kia driven by Tracey D. James (Male), a 43 year old resident of Portland, Oregon. The Kia then rotated in front of the Freightliner with both vehicles stopping. According to witnesses, Purice then accelerated; intentionally ramming the Kia. Heavy smoke from the tires was observed as the Freightliner pushed the Kia across most of the Interstate Bridge. The Kia came to rest sideways blocking the center lane after sustaining substantial damage to the left side, tires and rims. The Freightliner came to rest blocking the right lane. Purice exited his vehicle to check for damage to the Freightliner.

Trooper Hodel contacted Purice and James advising them to move their vehicles to the PUC parking lot.

After obtaining statements from witnesses Purice was taken into custody by Portland Police Bureau and booked into Multnomah County Jail for Assault in the Second Degree.

James sustained a minor injury to his left leg refusing treatment.

Cheryl D. James, a 53 year old resident of Vancouver, who was a passenger in the Kia sustained a minor injury to her right ankle refusing treatment.

WSP Detective Jody Metz is the assigned investigator who is recommending Purice be charged with two counts of Assault in the Second Degree. An extradition warrant is being prepared by the Clark County Prosecutor's Office to bring Purice back to Clark County.

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